

Capacity Development

West Virginia's FY 2008 inventory consists of 1,093 public water systems including: 501 CWSs, 130 NTNCWSs, and 462 TNCWSs. The number of active water systems in West Virginia continues to decrease due to consolidation and to acquisition by larger water systems.

WVDHHR continues to successfully implement its Capacity Development Program (CDP). The State has five (5) FTEs fully dedicated to the CDP. Despite the loss of two key members who retired, the staff is competent and experienced which is vital to ensuring water systems continue to get the assistance they need. A candidate has already been selected for one of the vacancies. WVDHHR has not yet found a suitable candidate for the second position. EPA acknowledges the state's efforts as well as its challenges in backfilling positions however, encourages WVDHHR to pursue other options to fill the vacant position as it has done with other positions in the past, e.g., create a trainee or some lower level position to accommodate the qualification of the employment pool.

New Systems

WVDHHR maintains a list that tracks the compliance status of new systems that started operation during the period October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2008.

The new systems permitting process is discouraging small, new water systems and encouraging proposed systems to connect to or to become part of existing, larger, more viable water systems. Through this process, new systems commonly begin to understand how complex running a water system is and partner with or connect to an existing, more viable system when possible. This is effective in preventing formation of non-viable PWSs.

Only four (4) systems that have started in the last three (3) years are still active (one system started operation during the past year) and all are in compliance.

Existing Systems

Since its initial baseline conducted in 2002, WVDHHR has provided an update every three (3) years to help evaluate the CDP. The most recent update was in 2008. The data which is used to measure improvement in system capacity showed that existing system's assessment activities were having a positive impact on water systems. The re-assessment shows that most water systems are addressing some portion of the recommendations provided.

The 2008 re-evaluation shows a significant difference in the service populations of failing systems and viable systems. Over the past six years, as larger, more viable systems have assumed responsibility for smaller failing systems, the average service population of viable systems has increased, while the average service population of failing systems has

decreased. The 2008 data show viable systems' average service population is seven times greater than the failing systems and four times greater than marginal systems. This data supports the consolidation of failing and marginal systems where feasible. An adequate service population is important to achieving and maintaining water system viability.

WVDHHR continues to provide assistance to water systems by conducting Capacity Development Assessments (CDA) - a complete evaluation of their technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capabilities and needs, and provides recommendations to address those needs which will lead to long term viability. The CDP continues to focus on making the reports more "reader friendly" and helpful to the water systems.

During FY 2008, 15 water systems were assessed (63 systems were assessed over the last three years). WVDHHR's shortage of CDP staff affects the number of assessments/reports completed.

Some assessments included multiple water systems having separate PWSID numbers, although, they were counted as one CDA.

Additional assistance provided by WVDHHR to water systems through field staff and the Capacity Development Team include a variety of activities related to the Area Wide Optimization Program; the Consumer Confidence Report; asset management; emergency response plans, Disinfection Byproduct Rule.

Highlight

As part of the more pro-active assistance approach initiated over the last two fiscal years, WVDHHR began contacting long-term Historic SNCs. These efforts have been coordinated with the enforcement personnel and are typically initiated following their issuance of an Administrative Order (AO).

WVDHHR continues with its pro-active initiatives - Capacity Assistance Partnership Developing Essential Viability (CAPDEV) outreach initiative, and CDA follow-up assistance calls and on-site visits.

The CAPDEV outreach initiative was created to provide TMF assistance to drinking water systems staff. CAPDEV is the second phase of the CDP (first phase is the CDA). Through CAPDEV, West Virginia is encouraging water system cooperation, personnel and/or equipment sharing agreements, and full or partial consolidation.

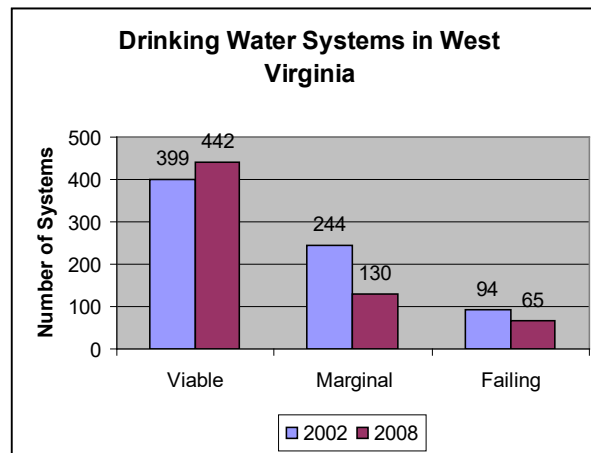
In addition to direct contact while conducting CDAs and follow-up assistance activities, CDP staff provides phone assistance and advice. A sample period during the past fiscal year showed CDP staff averaged 150 - 200 phone assistance contacts per month, equaling approximately 1,800 - 2,400 phone assistance contacts during FY 2008.

Third party assistance providers assist water systems through on-site, hands-on assistance; workshops; seminars and training sessions; and self-help guidance documents.

Cooperation with Enforcement Program: Eight (8) systems were referred to the CDP by the enforcement personnel. Six systems received assistance.

The CDP progress is continuously being evaluated using a list of parameters. During the last year, the following were noticed:

- An increase in the number of viable systems from 399 systems in 2002 to 442 in 2008,
- A decrease in the number of failing systems from 94 systems in 2002 to 65 in 2008, and
- The number of marginal systems has decreased from 244 systems in 2002 to 130 systems in 2008.



WVDHHR submitted to their Governor a report on the efficacy of the Capacity Development Strategy and progress made toward improving the TMF capacity of public water systems in West Virginia. The report was submitted by the due date (September 30, 2009) and was made available to the public. An article on the CDP's achievements was published.

Schedule Reminder

- The next baseline re-evaluation is scheduled for November 2009.

DWSRF SetAside Section of Report:

Capacity Development Assessments - 15% Local Assistance

WVDHHR conducted three (3) capacity development assessments and issued related reports to water systems which provide each system with a detailed evaluation and recommendations to improve system viability.

Program Management - 10%

Sanitary Surveys

States are required to conduct sanitary surveys at all surface or ground water under the direct influence of surface water (Subpart H) community water systems once every three years starting December 2004. WVDHHR schedules sanitary surveys in 3 year intervals from the date of the last survey completed. Surveys are tracked on a monthly basis to identify surveys to be completed throughout the year. For this reporting period the state completed 108 sanitary surveys for Subpart H systems and project and additional 86 to be completed by the end of 2009.